

Objectives

The State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) of Florida is a three-day display of science project exhibits prepared by aspiring scientists and engineers in grades 6-12. Approximately 900 students display projects illustrating their research in competition for awards.

The main objectives of the SSEF are to:

- Recognize scientific talent in young people;
- Introduce students to organized research;
- Provide teachers a forum for the exchange of ideas;
- Focus attention on science, technology, mathematics, and engineering, thus stimulating student, teacher, and public interest; and
- Promote team cooperation in science research.

During the event, students have the opportunity to:

- Share their ideas with one another;
- Increase personal development in scientific and technological areas;
- Gain self-confidence in problem-solving skills; and
- Participate in educational field trips and tours to local areas of interest.

Educational Experience

The SSEF provides a unique science education service to Florida public and private school students and teachers. It has been proven that students are motivated by becoming involved in independent study projects.

Through the investigation, development, and presentation of a project, students increase their abilities to:

- Make discerning observations;
- Raise directed questions;
- Formulate viable hypotheses;
- Develop procedures and methodologies; and
- Present findings to the scientific community.

JASON Colloquium

Top students are selected to speak at the Junior and Senior Outstanding Narratives Colloquium (JASON) during the SSEF Opening Ceremony. These students address an audience of more than one thousand, sharing personal accounts of academic events which have influenced them. Nominations for this honor should be directed to the FFFS Office before March 19th, 2008.

Judging

Judging is a vital activity of the SSEF and provides students with both educational and motivational experiences. Judging is based on scientific thought, thoroughness, skill, clarity, and creative ability/originality.

Projects are judged separately in two sections: Senior Section (grades 9-12) and Junior Section (grades 6-8). All student participants are designated Finalists, having already been chosen as best in a Regional Science and Engineering Fair (RSEF).

Each Section is comprised of 14 Categories* as follows:

Biological Sciences

Behavioral and Social Science.....	BE
Biochemistry.....	BI
Botany.....	BO
Medicine and Health.....	ME
Microbiology.....	MI
Zoology.....	ZO

Physical Sciences

Chemistry.....	CH
Computer Science.....	CO
Earth and Space Sciences.....	EA
Engineering.....	EN
Environmental Sciences.....	EV
Mathematics.....	MA
Physics.....	PH

*Team Projects (TM) will be eligible for entry as a 14th Category in both the Senior and the Junior Sections. Teams of 2-3 students will be judged in a multidisciplinary competition for Place and other appropriate awards.

Each project is independently judged by at least three different Judges in Round One and possible by several more Judges or Judging Teams in subsequent rounds. As many as 500 qualified Judges are needed to meet this schedule. These judging volunteers provide insight into the research, offer suggestions to students for improvement, and rank the projects in each Section by Category. Persons interested in judging are urged to contact the FFFS office or register online at our website www.floridassef.net.

Each project is carefully evaluated by the Category Judges working individually and as a team. The Judging Chairman reports the final Category ranking to the Judging Committee.

Awards

Place Awards are presented to the first four place winners in each Category in both the Senior and Junior Sections. Place Awards are personalized engraved plaques.

Special Awards are given by interested donors including: individuals, businesses, industries, institutions and government agencies, as well as professional and technical societies. Examples of awards given include cash, certificates, books, trips, plaques, and scientific equipment. Prospective Special Awards donors should contact the FFFS.

Recognition and Merit Awards are marble paperweights and ribbons which are given to students in specific Categories to honor individual achievement as assessed through use of official Category Judging criteria.

Premium Awards are those that the donor has directed as bonuses to students selected for Place or other awards.

Scholarship Awards are given to selected, eligible SSEF participants. Over 30 Florida universities, colleges, and organizations participate in the Scholarship Awards program. All twelfth-grade SSEF entrants are sent Scholarship Award applications after SSEF entry materials have been received. Student must attend a Florida College or University.

Opportunity Awards are awards which are separately judged by interviewing students whom the donor has determined are eligible and qualified. These awards may include summer positions with such organizations as NASA at Kennedy Space Center or the Florida Engineering Society.

Grand Awards are presented to the students named as Best-in-Fair in both the Senior and the Junior Sections. They are chosen from among the First Place Category winners. The two Grand Award winners from the Senior Section will receive expense-paid trips to represent Florida at the 2008 Intel-International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel-ISEF) to be held in Atlanta, Georgia during May.

Service Awards are presented to adults, schools, and organizations. Some are awarded to people who have expended special effort to make the SSEF possible; others are awarded to teachers or schools of student winners. Major contributors are also recognized.

Schedule

The 53rd Annual State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) of Florida takes place April 16 – 18th, 2008 at the Lakeland Center, Lakeland, Florida.

Tentative General Schedule of major events includes:

Wednesday, April 16th

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Load-In Day Official Party Registration Display & Safety Certification Field Trips/Meals Registration & Ticket Sales
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Opening Ceremony & JASON Colloquium
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Last-Minute Certification Clearance

Thursday, April 17th

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Judges' Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Judges' Briefing
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Round 1 Judging
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Judges' Consensus Meetings
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Judges' Luncheon
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Round 2 Judging
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Judges' Consensus Meetings
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Round 3 Judging
5:00 PM	Judging Concludes
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Open to the Public
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Student Mixer
10:00 PM	PROJECT TEARDOWN

Friday, April 18th

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	FFFS Board of Directors & RSEF Directors' Meeting
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FIELDTRIPS *on your own*

7:30PM - 10:00PM	GRAND AWARDS CEREMONY
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Regional Science and Engineering Fairs



Administrators

The 2008 SSEF is administered by the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (FFFS) at the University of Central Florida/CECS.

Please direct inquiries about the SSEF to:

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Check out our website at: www.floridassef.net

The FFFS is dedicated to the promotion of excellence in science and engineering education, is organized and registered as a Florida corporation not-for-profit, and is designated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service (59-6155014).

53rd Annual State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida

April 16th – 18th, 2008
Lakeland, Florida
Lakeland Center

..... Administered by

**Florida Foundation
for Future Scientists
at the
University of Central Florida/CECS**

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